

Testimony of Susan Eastwood  
CGA Environment Committee  
March 10, 2023

TO **OPPOSE**

Senate Bill 1149, AN ACT ELIMINATING ALL RESTRICTIONS FOR SUNDAY HUNTING ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

Senate Bill 1148, AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN KILLING AND HUNTING OF BLACK BEAR AND PROHIBITING BIRD FEEDERS AND OTHER UNINTENTIONAL AND INTENTIONAL FEEDING OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS

Senate Bill 1143, AN ACT CONCERNING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE STATE  
AND IN **SUPPORT** OF

Senate Bill 1145, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SECTOR SPECIFIC SUBTARGETS FOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS AND REGULATING EMISSIONS OF SMALL-OFF ROAD ENGINES

Senate Bill 1147, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

House Bill 6813, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEABIRD AND SHOREBIRD PROTECTION PROGRAM

Dear Environment Chairs Lopes and Gresko, Vice-Chairs Hochadel and Palm, Ranking Members Harding and Callahan, and distinguished members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Susan Eastwood. I am a resident of Ashford, Chair of the Ashford Clean Energy Task Force, a member of the Connecticut Zero Waste Coalition, and the Chapter Chair of Sierra Club Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of three important bills - S.B. 1145, S.B. 1147, and H.B. 6813, and in opposition to S.B. 1149 and S.B. 1148.

**Senate Bill 1149, AN ACT ELIMINATING ALL RESTRICTIONS FOR SUNDAY HUNTING ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY - **OPPOSE****

I write in strong opposition to this bill which would allow hunting on Sundays in the Fall. We live in Ashford and own forty wooded acres of land. Despite posting "no trespassing" signs on our private property, we have had many hunters violate our wishes. We have even had a hunting platform set up in our forest without our permission. We hear gunshots in the woods throughout the Fall, and it is hard to know where they come from given the topography and the habits of neighbors who enjoy target practice. So, we are always cautious when walking in our woods, or in other areas of our beautiful rural Quiet Corner. Having one day a week to breathe easier is something we have counted on through the years and, in fact, are the only days we feel safe walking during this season. Please continue to protect those of us who do not hunt, and do not support S.B. 1149.

**Senate Bill 1148, AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN KILLING AND HUNTING OF BLACK BEAR AND PROHIBITING BIRD FEEDERS AND OTHER UNINTENTIONAL AND INTENTIONAL FEEDING OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS - **OPPOSE****

I strongly oppose bear hunting. It is not suited to addressing the very few problem bears that may need to be tranquilized and relocated to safe habitats. Bears are critical to habitat diversity, and education of homeowners in and near bear habitats is key. I do support Section 3 of the bill that restrict bird feeders when bears come out of hibernation, to keep bears from learning where an easy treat can be found near homes. Hunting is not the answer, proper habitat and ecosystem management is.

**Senate Bill 1143, AN ACT CONCERNING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE STATE - **OPPOSE****

**S.B. 1143** would require approval of revisions to the state's solid waste management plan and the Comprehensive Material's Management Strategy by the legislature's Environment Committee, prescribe certain signs concerning reverse vending machine outages and require the issuance of an RFI relating to the management of the state's solid waste stream.

I support oversight and input from all stakeholders on the state's solid waste management plan. However, I oppose this bill because it clearly leans toward the expansion of waste incineration, call it what you will, in our state. If Connecticut is serious about reducing our waste stream and avoiding shipping our trash to out-of-state landfills, we must take the unpopular road and pass statewide Pay As You Throw legislation. Along with source separation of organic waste and clean recycling programs (and our stronger Bottle Bill!) we can reduce our municipal waste stream by as much as 90%, and avoid more polluting trash incineration.

**Senate Bill 1145, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SECTOR SPECIFIC SUBTARGETS FOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS AND REGULATING EMISSIONS OF SMALL-OFF ROAD ENGINES - **SUPPORT****

**S.B. 1145** would enforce Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions goals through the establishment of certain sector subtargets and authorize emission standards for certain small off-road engines.

We are falling behind on meeting our state's mandated greenhouse gas emissions reduction commitments. Setting incremental goals and targets will help to ensure that we stay on track. Nothing could be more important for the sake of our future!

**Senate Bill 1147, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – **SUPPORT****

**S.B. 1147** would increase environmental and public health standards under Connecticut's environmental justice statute and give the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Siting Council the ability to deny or modify certain permits for polluting facilities. I strongly support this bill because it would help protect communities already overburdened by pollution, avoid further pollution, and improve public health<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.greenwichtime.com/opinion/article/letter-to-the-editor-take-action-on-17813295.php?fbclid=IwAR2e2M3ix8DAidzXR57XMjkoAXcAXdU\\_z5PAE69aa\\_6HznG\\_jRZ4bS2HCY0;](https://www.greenwichtime.com/opinion/article/letter-to-the-editor-take-action-on-17813295.php?fbclid=IwAR2e2M3ix8DAidzXR57XMjkoAXcAXdU_z5PAE69aa_6HznG_jRZ4bS2HCY0;)

I respectfully ask the Committee to support this bill with the following amendments:

- (1) Ensure DEEP and the Siting Council SHALL (not just may) deny new and expanded permit applications for Affecting Facilities in already overburdened communities based on cumulative impact analysis;
- (2) Require community resident involvement in negotiating Community Environmental Benefit Agreements; and
- (3) Require that if a permit for an Affecting Facility is granted, DEEP and the Siting Council SHALL impose conditions on the construction and operations of the facility to help protect public health.

**House Bill 6813, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEABIRD AND SHOREBIRD PROTECTION PROGRAM – SUPPORT**

This bill would strengthen our current statutes and identify and protect the sea and shore birds most in need.

Thank you for your consideration of these good bills intended to protect our wildlife, environment, and public health.

Susan Eastwood  
Ashford, CT